

**BOARD OF PARK COMMISSIONERS  
ANNUAL RETREAT  
Botanica, The Wichita Gardens  
701 N. Amidon  
Monday, September 20, 2008  
3:30 p.m.**

**Present:** Janet Miller, Bryan Frye, Glen Dey, Tom Roth and Matt Goolsby,  
Andy Solter and John Stevens

**Absent:** None

**Also Present:** Doug Kupper, Director, Park and Recreation; Karen Walker,  
Assistant Director, Park and Recreation; Larry Foos, Recreation  
Superintendent; and Myca Bunch, staff.

President Miller called the meeting to order at approximately 9:00am

**PUBLIC AGENDA**

No Items.

**REGULAR AGENDA**

**Item 1. Approval of Minutes**

**On Motion by Frye, second by Solter, IT WAS UNANIMOUSLY VOTED to approve the Park Board meeting minutes of July 14, 2008 and August 11, 2008.**

**Item 2: Election of Officers**

**On motion by Solter, second by Roth, IT WAS UNANIMOUSLY VOTED that Janet Miller was again elected as Park Board President. Bryan Frye was again elected to serve as 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President and Glen Dey also re-elected as 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President.**

Doug Kupper asked the Board to present an off-agenda item concerning the Park Department CIP Plan.

**On Motion by Miller, second by Dey, it was approved to allow the off-agenda item.**

**Item 3: Park Department CIP Plan**

Kupper gave each Board member a copy of the current CIP and asked them to look at the 2009 projects. He said the CIP process has officially begun and they will soon be setting a deadline for all projects to be initiated. If they are not initiated, those projects will be eradicated from the CIP. He said if that should happen they will remain aware and will have those projects that are removed added back to the new CIP.

Stevens asked what needed to be done to begin the project. Kupper said he has to initiate the entire project and funding and have it approved by the City Council to move forward. Goolsby asked about the projects not completed section of the CIP plan and Kupper replied that those were projects where the bonding capacity was not complete. He said those projects will be the first to go in next time.

**RETREAT AGENDA**

**Item 1. Draft PROS Plan Presentation**

Miller said that the Draft Pros Plan was released earlier in the week and it still needed some fine-tuning and that they would be taking the Plan to each of the District Advisory Boards for community input in November. Miller reminded the Board that they would be hosting a community meeting, hosted by Mayor Brewer, at the City Arts building on Saturday, September 27.

Scott Wadle showed a slide presentation outlining the key points of the new Draft PROS Plan. Wadle reinforced the idea that the plan needs to be what the community wanted and that is why the community meetings are vital to the success of the Plan.

Wadle began the presentation by reading the 8 Goals that the PROS plan stated would best benefit Wichita. He then referred to the "Strategic Actions" that the City and the Park Department would have to take in order to obtain and reach the goals.

Wadle continues to discuss the Resources, Programs, Maintenance and Funding and Evaluations and how each aspect would change with the recommendations by the PROS Plan.

**Item 2. PROS Plan Adoption Process**

Karen Walker addressed the major funding issues related to the Plan. She said the Plan, starting at the 2030 boundary, based the cost of renovating developed parks at \$25,000/acre and \$10,000/acre for natural areas. She referred to Appendix D of the Draft PROS Plan which outlined each park and its planning level cost to make the recommended changes. Walked said that all cost estimates in the Plan are based on 2008 dollar amounts.

Walker said that over a 20 year period the total cost of completing all recommended projects equates to around \$600 million. She then addressed the funding options outlined in the Plan, including sales tax, property tax, private grants, and development excise taxes.

**Item 3: Review of 2008 Park Board Goals**

1. *Continue to push forward, advocate for, and participate in the development of the Parks, Recreation, and Open Space (PROS) Plan.*
  - Miller said the Board as whole did very well on this goal and that she continues to receive comments on the Plan from many citizens.
2. *Develop a “Return on Investment” PowerPoint presentation that Park Board members will take out to community groups as a way to cultivate an understanding of – and support for – parks, recreation, and open space resources throughout the community.*
  - Stevens said he is still working on putting the presentation together and that he is excited about the project.
3. *Explore the possibility of – and options for – a dedicated funding source for Wichita’s parks, recreation, and open space system.*
  - a. *Investigate how other communities utilize and fund dedicated funding sources.*
  - b. *Determine at what levels other communities fund their PROS systems. What is the optimal funding level for Wichita?*
    - Miller said the Board has not reached a point yet to where they can begin working on this goal.
4. *Actively advocate for the Park and Recreation Department’s annual budget requests (SP and SAPs) and bi-annual CIP submission.*
  - a. *Learn about the budget process and gain a solid understanding of the annual submission.*
  - b. *Elevate the importance of the annual P&R budget and CIP submission among various groups.*
  - c. *Meet with individual City Council members about P/R budget and CIP submission.*
  - d. *Make presentations to DABs about the importance of P/R budget and CIP submission.*
  - e. *Discuss how to involve business community in supporting the budget and CIP submission.*
    - Miller said she would like the Board to work on this goal again in 2009 so that they may all learn more about the CIP and how to work with their City Council members to understand Park funding.
5. *Through the PROS Plan, explore and understand 1) what recreational facilities, services, and programs we offer, 2) where the gaps in service exist, and 3) how we can best allocate and advocate for dollars and resources in this area.*

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- Goal has been completed.
- 6. *Continue to work on developing relationships with other city boards, committees, initiatives and departments.*
  - a. *Invite speakers from other departments/groups to present to the Board on topics related to parks, recreation, and open space.*
    - Miller said she review the Board's action and had found several instances where this goal had been addressed.

**Item 4. Development of 2009 Park Board Goals**

Miller postponed the development of the 2009 Park Board Goals until a future Board meeting.

**Item 5: Adjourn for Tour**

Miller adjourned the meeting for the Park Board tour at approximately 11:30am.

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Janet L. Miller, President

ATTEST:

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Myca J. Bunch, Recording Secretary